

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated February 24, 2005 in which the Examiner stated that claim 18 is drawn to a non-elected invention and stated that claims 8-17 are allowed.

Attached to this Amendment is a copy of an Information Disclosure Statement filed August 26, 2002 and stamped postcard thereof. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement.

As indicated above, claim 18 has been canceled without prejudice.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner find that the application is not now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner enters this Amendment for purposes of appeal.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: May 24, 2005

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